

# Village of Los Lunas



660 Main Street NW P.O. Box 1209  
Los Lunas New Mexico 87031  
Phone (505) 865-9689 FAX (505) 865-6063

Volume 6 Number 3

April 2002

## Village Receives Nearly \$500,000 in Capital Outlay

When New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson signed the 2002 Capital Outlay Bill into law in March, he approved almost a half million dollars for projects in the Village of Los Lunas.

Funding awarded:

- Los Lentes Road Improvements — \$143,810 from the Capital Outlay. This money will help complete several Los Lentes improvements.

Proposed Los Lentes improve-

ments include widened roadway sections, two traffic lanes with a center continuous turn lane, new curb and gutter, new sidewalks, as well as drainage.

- \$125,000 for improvements to the village's library. An addition is planned for the Main Street facility which will result in improved rest rooms and enhanced children's programs.

- \$100,000 for Heritage Park. Planned improvements include

paving a multiuse trail, additional landscaping, benches, picnic tables and shade as well as more lighting and fencing.

- \$50,000 for Luna Hills sidewalks. This will be part of a multi-million dollar project in the Luna Hills Area which will improve the infrastructure.

- \$25,000 for Carson Park drainage. Carson Park is an older subdivision with a need for drainage improvement.

## Infrastructure Improvements More than \$11 Million

One of the biggest infrastructure projects the village has ever embarked on begins this spring. The Luna Hills improvement project, estimated at \$4.96 million, will include storm drainage improvements with curb, gutter, drop inlets and storm drain pipe, sanitary sewer improvements, a walking trail, and paving of roads.

This project is set to go to bid in mid-May with construction tentatively scheduled to start in July.

The downtown Sewer Project includes installing new sewers and drainage improvements at an estimated cost of \$2.96 million.

Improvements on North Los

Lentes Road will begin at Taylor Road and continue north to Cinder Lane. It includes a new crossing at the Los Lentes drain. Star Paving began this job in early April after having the low bid of \$352,929.

Star Paving is also milling the existing pavement and overlaying new pavement for \$148,193 on several streets in the village.

Improved water pressure and increased fire protection are the goals for the \$2.89 million improvement of Water Well Six and the North Water Loop. This includes a new 1,500 gallon-per-

minute supply well with corresponding construction, a new 1.5 million gallon water storage reservoir and new transmission pipelines with the corresponding appurtenances.

Installation of sanitary sewer and storm drainage improvements is underway on Roberts Circle and Stover Road with work being done by New Mexico Underground for \$684,264.

## Wellness Center To Be Enlarged

The Village's Wellness Center, located on Lambros Loop near the Los Lunas/Bosque Farms Chamber of Commerce, will be enlarged by 2,625 square feet for additional offices and a group therapy room.

Estimated cost of the project is \$300,000 and bids are currently being sought. Construction should begin late spring or early summer.



*District Court Judge John Pope swears in Village Mayor Louis F. Huning after he won re-election in early March. Huning's family stands with him.*

# ***Village Receives Certificate of Merit***

The village has received a Certificate of Merit from the New Mexico Budget Awards Program. It is one of only 11 municipalities and counties in the state to receive an award.

The New Mexico Budget Awards Program is a voluntary initiative conducted concurrent with the local government budget process. The New Mexico City Management Association, the New Mexico Municipal League and the Department of Finance and Administration's Local Government Division sponsor the program.

All local governments in the state are eligible to participate in the program and are encouraged to meet the performance criteria. Criteria includes:

- Establishment of budget priorities, policies and financial plans for the local government;
- Ability of the local government to effectively communicate the contents of the budget; and
- Ability to convey information to the public about the programs serving the community.

The village received the award at the 2002 budget workshop held in Santa Fe at the end of February.

## **Village Makes “Good” News Scene**

The village has made the national news scene in the “good” news category over the last months.

The people who work at the wastewater treatment plant were featured on Animal Planet's “Wild Rescue.”

A film crew came to Los Lunas to talk about the Summer, 2001, rescue of a bear from the village's sludge tank.

The young male bear, estimated at about 130 pounds, had probably been trapped in the tank a few days when rescued.

New Mexico Game and Fish personnel as well as village workers helped get the bear out.

The village's St. Patrick's Day Balloon Rallye was featured in the Happenings section of the American Profile section carried in the Albuquerque Journal the end of February.

### ***Attend a Council Meeting!***

The Los Lunas Village Council meets twice monthly at the administrative building on Don Pasqual and Main Street. Times and dates are subject to change. Call Debra at 865-9689 to verify. Scheduled 2002 meetings:

May 9 & 23 June 6 & 20  
July 11 & 24 August 8 & 22  
September 5 & 19 October 10 & 24  
November 7 & 21 December 12 & 19

*Village of Los Lunas*



***Village Councilor Charles Griego is sworn in by District Judge John Pope after winning re-election. Standing with Griego are his wife Angela and son Charles Joseph.***

## **Fire Inspector Will Make Citizens Safer**

The Village has hired former Albuquerque firefighter Zack Romero as Los Lunas' Emergency Management Coordinator/Fire Inspector.

Fire Chief Lito Chavez says Romero will help coordinate emergency management and perform life safety code inspections on new and existing buildings.

In addition he will investigate the cause and origin of a fire in cases of suspicious fires.

The village is updating its emergency response plan in light of the September 11 disaster which includes additional training of fire, police and other employees, locating hazardous areas in the village and finding resources that can be used in emergencies.

Romero will work with the Federal Emergency Management Administration to help the village prepare for emergencies. He will also coordinate evacuation and shelter with other agencies such as the schools.

All buildings in the village must meet minimum fire safety requirements under the Life Safety Code. Newly constructed buildings must be inspected to make sure they comply as must buildings remodeled for different occupancy. Previously this has been done by a state fire marshal when needed in the village.

Fire Chief Chavez points out that the state only has a few inspectors so hiring an inspector on a part time basis for the village facilitates the use of buildings.

### **VILLAGE OFFICIALS**

*Louis F. Huning* **Mayor**  
**Councilors**

*Cecilia CC Castillo* *Charles Griego*

*Gerard Saiz* *Robert Vialpando*

**Municipal Judge** *Jeff Aragon*

**Village Administrator**

*Phillip Jaramillo* **Master Municipal Clerk**

**Chief of Police** *Nick Balido*

# New Municipal Judge Aragon Wants to Educate

Los Lunas's new municipal judge had tough shoes to fill, but Jeff Aragon looks forward to serving the citizens of the community.

Aragon was elected in March to replace Richard Luna who had been the judge for Los Lunas in one form or another for more than three decades. (see story below)

Aragon spent 12 years on the village council after being elected in 1978 at the age of 26, the youngest person ever elected to Los Lunas' governing body.

In 2000 he did not run for reelection as he planned to run for municipal judge in 2002.

He looks at his new position as one of assisting and educating the defendants who come before him. He figures that education can help prevent a person from becoming a repeat offender.

Aragon says he looks forward to making decisions as a judge which will be for the betterment of the citizens and community.

He plans on instituting a night court beginning in May so that citizens will have an alternative time to attend to matters in the court.

Within a few weeks after taking office, he performed his first civic sentencing by sentencing a high school student to write an essay.

His staff is

young on the job with the longest serving employee having been there for six months. The court has two full-time employees and three contractual employees including a bailiff.

A Los Lunas High School graduate, Aragon has an associates degree from the University of New Mexico-Valencia Campus with a minor in criminology. He hopes to earn his bachelor's degree with a major in criminology.

## Trash Bins Not For Ashes

Los Lunas Utilities Director Betty Behrend asks residents to be careful about what is placed in the trash bins which the village picks up.

For instance hot ashes may cause the plastic containers to disintegrate. Putting something with too much weight, such as concrete or bricks, can damage the mechanisms on the garage trucks.

Please bag the trash before putting it in the bins. Unbagged trash may become part of a neighborhood rather than going in the truck when picked up.



**Judge Jeff Aragon**

## Judge Luna Retires After 34 Years

Thirty-four years is a long time to hold one job -- thirty-four years in a job to which a person has to be elected is an incredibly long time.

Los Lunas Municipal Judge Richard Luna retired in 2002 after 34 years in the job -- winning his first election in 1968 as the village's police judge.

Back then the village had about a thousand people. Now there's slightly more than 10,000 and over the years Luna won 15 elections including eleven when he had to run every two years. Now the post is up every four years.

The municipal judge is now a

full time position with a staff. When Luna first began it was part time and he held a job.

With the increased growth in the village also came an increase in cases handled by the municipal judge.

In an interview shortly before his retirement, Luna said he has been a strict judge, not letting offenders get away with a simple slap on the wrist.

When asked

what he would do in retirement, he said he's going to plant his garden this summer and might take up fishing again.



**Los Lunas Mayor Louis F. Huning, right, congratulates retiring municipal judge Richard Luna as Luna's wife, Mary Lou, looks on.**



## An Animal Question For Los Lunas

**Question:** How many pets are allowed on a property?

**Answer:** You are allowed to have two pets on property less than one-half acre in size.

## No Burning in the Village

Drought conditions prevail throughout New Mexico and Los Lunas is no exception. For that reason, open burning is prohibited, announces Fire Chief Lito Chavez, until some moisture arrives.

People who open burn will be cited because of the danger factor.

If you have debris which you want to remove, place it together and then call the Village offices at 865-1377 to get information on what to do with that debris.

Remember that in these conditions, the property you save might be your own.

## Council, Mayor Re-Elected; New Municipal Judge

Los Lunas Mayor Louis F. Huning and Village Councilors Charles Griego and Robert Vialpando were reelected to their posts in the March 5, 2002, municipal election.

In addition, former village councilor Jeff Aragon was elected as municipal judge to follow longtime judge Richard Luna.



**Robert Vialpando**

## Recycle Every Day

# 11th Annual Family Fun Fest

## April 27, 2002

Honoring Child Abuse Prevention Month

March begins at 9 a.m. and ends at

Daniel Fernandez Park

## Don't Miss the Fun!!!

### Entertainment

9 AM — March

10 AM — Pledge & changing of the colors

10:15 AM — Regina's Dance Studio

10:45 AM — Auction

11 AM — Bust A Move

11:30 AM — Auction

11:30 AM — Boardwalk Gymnastics

11:45 AM — Tae Kwon Do

12:15 PM — Auction

12:30 PM — To Be Announced

1 PM — Auction

1:15 PM — To Be Announced

1:45 PM — Auction

2:15 PM — Marie Antoinette's School of Dance

2:45 PM — Auction

Sponsored by  
Valencia County Protective Services  
Village of Los Lunas  
Parks & Recreation  
Valencia County MDT



• Free Drinks

• Free Hot Dogs

• Free Music & Prizes

REALLY COOL KID STUFF AUCTIONED OFF

**For information call the  
Village Parks & Recreation  
Department, 865-2128**